(a) what is the employment in the large scale public sector undertakings as on date;

(b) what are the exports, at advalorem, in 1990-91, of SSI manufactured goods excluding handicrafts; and

(c) the countries where bulk SSI exports are taking place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES. (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) As on 31-3-1991, upto which period only the information is available, the employment in the Central public sector enterprises as a whole was 22.17 lakhs.

(b) and (c) The exports of manufactured goods from SSI sector excluding handicrafts during 1990-91 stood at Rs. 8625.32 crores. The break-up of SSI exports to different countries is not maintained.

Protest by INS against news print price hike

4739. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Newspaper Society have protested against the recent hike in prices of Newsprint by Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Government have received representations from the Indian Newspaper Society and have directed the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) to study the propriety of price increase.

100 percent equity in foreign investments

4740. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow 100 percent equity in foreign investments in industrial sector depending upon economic benefits of projects; and

(b) if so, the nature of ventures and the nature and extent of economic benefits contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) As spelt out in the Statement on Industrial Policy, tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 24th July, 1991, industries listed in Annex. III are eligible for automatic approval by the RBI for direct foreign investment upto 51 per cent provided the foreign equity covers foreign exchange requirement for imported capital goods. Other proposals for foreign investment outside the parameters for automatic clearance, including proposals envisaging foreign investment of more than 51 per cent, are also considered and cleared on merits by the Government. The facility of foreign equity investment upto 100 per cent in fully (100 per cent) Export Oriented units is available. Further, NRIs and Overseas corporate bodies predominantly owned by them are also permitted upto 100 per cent foreign equity investment in high priority Annex-III industries. The facility of foreign equity investment upto 100 per cent is also available in power sector.